

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) Arrangement for producing hot-rolled steel strip, which comprises at least one continuous casting machine, at least one shear, at least one soaking furnace, a descaler, possibly a roughing train, a finishing train (multi-stand rolling mill or Steckel mill(s)), a roller table with a cooling zone, and at least one coiling reel for the hot strip, ~~characterized by the fact that~~ wherein the casting line and the pass line are arranged parallel or approximately parallel to each other in such a way that the casting direction and the rolling direction are oriented essentially opposite each other and are connected with each other by a reheating furnace, and by the fact that the reheating furnace is a rocker-bar hearth furnace or a walking-beam furnace.

2. (Currently Amended) Arrangement in accordance with Claim 1, ~~characterized by the fact that~~ wherein the distance between the casting line and the pass line is designed in such a way that a sufficient residence and buffering time for the thin slabs in the reheating furnace is guaranteed.

3. (Currently Amended) Arrangement in accordance with ~~Claim 1 or Claim 2~~, ~~characterized by the fact that~~ claim 1, wherein the

reheating furnace is designed to hold at least three slabs and a maximum of twelve slabs.

4. (Currently Amended) Arrangement in accordance with ~~Claim 1, Claim 2, or Claim 3,~~ characterized by the fact that claim 1, wherein the casting line consists of one or more casting machines or several cast strands.

5. (Currently Amended) Arrangement in accordance with ~~one or more of the preceding claims,~~ characterized by the fact that claim 1, wherein the casting and rolling plane are preferably arranged at the same height.

6. (Currently Amended) Arrangement in accordance with ~~one or more of the preceding claims,~~ characterized by the fact that claim 1, wherein at least one continuous furnace is arranged between the casting machine and the reheating furnace.

7. (Currently Amended) Arrangement in accordance with ~~one or more of the preceding claims,~~ characterized by the fact that claim 1, wherein at least one continuous furnace is arranged between the rolling mill and the reheating furnace.